

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Military Rail Traffic

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1. On 15 September 1952, a troop train of 5 boxcars and 44 flatcars carrying an engineer unit with pontoons was identified [redacted]

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The train came from Sperenberg and went to Tangerhuetten.

2. [redacted] the Berlin railroad district headquarters was ordered to make available 650 flatcars for 27 September and 600 flatcars for 28 September in the Rathenow area. (2)

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3. Troop trains [redacted] in the [redacted] Kuestrin-Kietz railroad station on 17 and 24 September included: a train of 3 boxcars and 16 flatcars from Insterburg to Cottbus on 17 September; and a train of 26 boxcars from Gerdauen to Stuelpe on 24 September. (3)

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4. On 20 September, a train of 20 flatcars with tanks was observed at the Muellrose railroad station. The train [redacted]

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[redacted] came from Werbig and proceeded toward Grunow. (4)

5. On 26 September, a troop train of an undetermined number of cars with about 120 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 2 SU-100 guns, 2 field howitzers, 4 AT guns and trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] was observed at the Seddin railroad station. The train was bound for Altstrelitz. (5)

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6. On 15 September, [redacted] tank shipments were continuously unloaded at the Dargen railroad station.

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On 18 September, [redacted] loading of a train with 31 T-34 tanks and 85 tank guns at Prenzlau. The train then departed toward Binz. [redacted] three similar shipments were said to have been dispatched toward Linz on the same day. Another shipment of about 25 T-34 tanks and 85 guns from Prenzlau to an undetermined destination was observed on 27 September. (6)

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7. On 27 September, military shipments observed included:
 a shipment of 12 JS tanks from Greifenberg toward Angermuende;
 a shipment of 12 assault guns, 3 ZIS-3 AT guns and trucks
 with billeting equipment from Britz toward Eberswalde; 15 JS-3
 tanks and trucks, [REDACTED] and 8 JS-1 tanks were
 loaded at Eberswalde. The latter train was headed in a northerly
 direction. (4) (7)

8. [REDACTED] the 5th Subdistrict Office of the
 Berlin railroad district, 5 troop shipments, each consisting
 of 4 converted boxcars, 5 flatcars and 20 SSY-type flatcars
 with tanks, went from Rathenow to Lallow-Doeberitz on 19
 September 1952. (8)

[REDACTED] Comments.

- (1) The troop train from Sperenberg to Tangerhuetten was probably
 observed by [REDACTED] to have passed through Wittenberg
 toward Dessau. The train carried an element of the 35th Engr
 Regt (US) of the Third Gds Mecc Army. [REDACTED]
 Other observations, however, indicated that other elements of
 the same regiment were unloaded at Wittenberg from a second
 troop train, possibly for training exercises on the Elbe River.
- (2) The total of 1,250 flatcars was probably to carry units of the
 Fourth Gds Mecc Army and the Third Shock Army to their home
 stations, beginning on about 20 September 1952. The units
 participated in large maneuvers in the Letzling-Heath-Rathenow
 area.
- (3) The two trains probably carried equipment.
- (4) It is fairly definitely believed that the train with tanks
 observed at the Muellrose railroad station on 20 September, and
 the shipment of 12 JS tanks reported in paragraph 7 which left
 Greifenberg toward Angermuende on 27 September 1952, had Prenzlau
 as dispatching station. Previous observations indicated that
 Soviet tanks had been handed over to the Volkspolizei at Prenzlau
 and were redistributed to the newly activated VP divisions in
 the Eggesin-Torgelow area and on Ruegen Island. According to
 the present report, the tank distributing point at Prenzlau
 probably also delivers tanks to other VP units, for instance to
 the Kasernierte Volkspolizei Dienststelle (KVPD) in Rostock
 which received 51 tanks between 18 and 20 September 1952.
 The recent observations indicate that the VP divisions activated
 in the Eggesin-Torgelow area and on Ruegen Island have probably
 been fully equipped with tanks, and furthermore indicate that
 other VP units will now also be equipped.
- (5) [REDACTED] the train carried a mixed unit of
 the 6th Gds Tank Div which possibly came from Justerboon.
- (6) The unloadings at Bergen and the shipments to Binz are indicative
 of the continuation of equipment of the VP divisions activated
 in the Prora-Ruegen Island area.
- (7) The 12 infantry guns and 3 ZIS-3 AT guns possibly came by road
 from the Templin troop training grounds. Troop trains carrying
 components of the 6th Gds Mecc Div and army units of the Fourth
 Gds Mecc Army from Templin to Eberswalde and Bernau respectively
 have been repeatedly observed since about 17 September 1952.
 [REDACTED]. The [REDACTED] reported in paragraph 7
 of the present report belongs to the Fourth Gds Mecc Army.
 The information, however, is not indicative of the possible
 receiving station of the tank shipment.
- (8) A troop train from Rathenow to Doeberitz was previously reported
 [REDACTED] on 19 September 1952. It is possible that the
 five troop shipments were made by the same train going from Rathenow
 to Doeberitz and vice versa five times. [REDACTED] paragraph 2

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